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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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Government lawyers "carefully weighed" those proposals but ultimately chose other sanctions against Microsoft that they believed would result in the "most effective and certain relief in the most timely manner."

This is sad. It is practically admitting that our government cannot discipline a company if they have enough money and lawyers. I believe it is also short-sighted. Without real and effective remedy, the same case will be back again in a few years.

In a 68-page court filing Thursday, the Justice Department formally defended its choices in the landmark settlement it negotiated between Microsoft and nine states. The government assured the judge the settlement, if approved by the court, would "eliminate Microsoft's illegal practices, prevent recurrence of the same or similar practices and restore the competitive threat" the company faces from rivals.

This is what they thought the last time they compromised with Microsoft. And here we are again. Imagine what the monopoly will look like the next time.

Those of us who try to work in the computer realm are struggling constantly against the Microsoft monopoly. Those outside of it simply do not understand that the very nature of computer interconnectedness creates strong pressure for everyone to conform to the same standards. The only question is whether those standards will be universal ones, created by all parties, or those imposed by the biggest bully.

In the short run the public may think that the latter is an acceptable choice, but in the long run it is a disaster for everyone.

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